

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

- 10 19. (Currently amended) A sealed shipping or trucking container which
(A) has a volume of at least 8 m³,
(B) contains
(i) a controlled atmosphere in which the content of oxygen is less
than in air, and
15 (ii) contains a plurality of sealed packages which are surrounded by
the controlled atmosphere, each of the sealed packages comprising
(a) a sealed polymeric bag , and
(b) within the sealed polymeric bag, (i) 16-22 kg of bananas and
(ii) a packaging atmosphere around the bananas, the packaging
20 atmosphere being which is substantially constant, which is as a
temperature less than 18°C, and which an equilibrium atmosphere
comprising O₂, CO₂ , and exogenous ethylene or the residue of
exogenous ethylene, the O₂ content having a substantially constant
25 value which is 1.5 to 6%, the CO₂ content having a substantially
constant value which is less than 15%, and comprises 1.5 to 6%
O₂, less than 15% CO₂, the total quantity of O₂ and CO₂ being less
than 16%, and exogenous ethylene or the residue of exogenous
ethylene;
the sealed polymeric bag
30 (a) having an O₂ permeability at 13 °C. per kg of bananas
in the package (OP13/kg), of at least 1500 ml/atm.24 hrs, an

ethylene permeability at 13°C per kg of bananas (EtP13/kg) which is at least 2 times of the OP13/kg, and an R ratio at 13 °C of at least 3; and

(b) including at least one atmosphere control member which (i) provides a pathway for O₂, CO₂ and ethylene to enter or leave the packaging atmosphere, and (ii) ~~comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film.~~

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10 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A sealed package comprising

(a) a sealed polyethylene ~~polymeric~~ bag, and

(b) within the sealed polyethylene ~~polymeric~~ bag, (i) bananas, and (ii) a packaging atmosphere around the bananas which is an equilibrium atmosphere comprising O₂, CO₂, and exogenous ethylene or the residue of exogenous ethylene, the O₂ content having a substantially constant value which is 1.5 to 6%, the CO₂ content having a substantially constant value which is less than 15%, and substantially constant and which comprises 1.5 to 6% O₂, less than 15% CO₂, the total quantity of O₂ and CO₂ being less than 16%, and exogenous ethylene or a residue of exogenous ethylene;

the sealed polymeric bag comprising at least one atmosphere control member which (i) provides a pathway for O₂, CO₂ and ethylene to enter or leave the packaging atmosphere, and (ii) provides at least 50% of the oxygen permeability of the sealed bag ~~comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film;~~ and

the sealed polymeric bag having an O₂ permeability at 13 °C. per kg of bananas in the package (OP13/kg), of at least 1500 ml/atm.24 hrs, an ethylene permeability at 13°C per kg of bananas (EtP13/kg) which is at least 2 times of the OP13/kg, and an R ratio at 13 °C of at least 2.

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22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A ~~shipping or trucking~~ container according to claim 19 wherein the bananas and the packaging atmosphere are the sole contents of each of the sealed bags.

24. (Previously presented) A package according to claim 21 wherein the bananas and the packaging atmosphere are the sole contents of the sealed bag.

25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A ~~shipping or trucking~~ container according to claim 19 wherein the sealed polymeric bag has an EtP13/kg which is at least 3 times the OP13/kg.

30. (Currently amended) A ~~shipping or trucking~~ container according to claim 19 wherein the bananas have passed the peak of their climacteric.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A ~~shipping or trucking~~ container according to claim 19 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 16°C.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) A package according to claim 21 wherein the sealed polymeric bag has an EtP13/kg which is at least 3 times the OP13/kg.

36. (Previously presented) A package according to claim 21 wherein the bananas have passed the peak of their climacteric.

37. (Currently amended) A package ~~shipping or trucking container~~ according to claim 21 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 18°C.

5 38. (Currently amended) A package ~~shipping or trucking container~~ according to claim 21 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 16°C.

39. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein each of the sealed packages contain 16-22 kg of the bananas.

10 40. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 18°C.

41. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein the controlled atmosphere surrounding the sealed packages contains less than about 12% of oxygen.

15 42. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein the atmosphere control member in each of sealed polymeric bags (i) comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film and (ii) provides at least 75% of the permeability of the sealed bag.

20 43. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein each of the polymeric bags is a polyethylene bag.

25 44. (New) A container according to claim 19 wherein each of the polymeric bags contain 16-22 kg of the bananas.

45. (New) A package according to claim 21 wherein the polyethylene bag contains 16-22 kg of the bananas.

46. (New) A package according to claim 21 wherein the atmosphere control member (i) comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film and (ii) provides at least 75% of the permeability of the sealed bag.